mid 1920s it was at its apex, in that it still largely existed, and in that it had been around long enough for it to have developed its own history -- it was conscious of itself; it was a culture (consider the case of the Highchurch family, in the preceding chapter). Modern forms of electronic communication, occupational therapies, intrusive therapies, and (last but certainly not least) intrusive social workers -- would radically transform it.[cxlii]

Dr. J.M. Forster succeeded Dr. Clarke in 1911; the annual reports for the period are less grand, less polemical, and therefore textually less interesting than those of his predecessors. In 1920 Dr. Forster was transferred to the new Asylum at Whitby. His report for the year ending October 31, 1920 was its first; it had previously been a Military Hospital. His description of the arrival of the first patients, mainly from the Toronto Asylum, strikes a chord: John Howard's offhand mention of the arrival of the first patients at Toronto, in horse-drawn wagons, like so much coal:

> A careful selction had to be made as this hospital was planned to be very open and lend itself to supervision rather than detention. A special car accommodating about sixty patients was engaged daily and attached to one of the regular trains from Toronto to Whitby. From Whitby Junction this car was brought on the siding to the Hospital grounds, and from there they were soon in the new quarters.

They arrived in wagons like so much coal. Seventy years later the anthracite variety leave by "special car."[cxliii] Dr. Forster is apprehenisve about giving these former Asylum patients too much freedom. He adds another term to the official lexicon: "supervision."

In the next year's report he is similarly anxious about another innovation, the introduction of Occupational Therapy, which he describes as "the beginning of a concerted and scientific effort on the part of the staff to, if possible, allay or ameliorate the progress of a dementing process so familiar and yet so regrettable to all medical observers." "Dementing Process" was the same term he applied to the experience of shell shock victims. Dr. Forster expresses a degree of uneasiness about the "tremendous amount of freedom being conceded our patients."